

## Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Leith Central Community Council, held in the McDonald Road Library on Monday 17 February 2014 at 7.00pm

Actions and decisions are **RED ITALIC UNDERLINED SMALLCAPS**. **NEM CON** means that no-one spoke or voted against a decision. URLs added by minutes secretary.

### 1 Introduction, attendance and apologies

#### 1.1 Attendance

Marion Donaldson	LCCC	Jan Brown	Leith Harbour & Newhaven CC (secretary)
Anne Finlay	LCCC (treasurer)	CLlr Nick Gardner	Leith Walk ward (Labour)
John Hein	LCCC (chair)	Ella Taylor-Smith	Broughton Spurtle
Ross McEwan	LCCC	Sophie Brown	Friends of Pilrig Park
Julian Siann	LCCC	PC Gordon Duff	Police Scotland
Harald Tobermann	LCCC (vice-chair)	Malcolm Chisholm MSP	Edinburgh North and Leith (Labour)
Alex Wilson	LCCC	Mark Lazarowicz MP	Edinburgh North and Leith (Labour)
Bruce Ryan	minutes secretary	Jeya Sinnarasa	Swiss students studying present-day Leith,
Liz Ballantyne	resident	Marco Gubser	the role of CCs, gentrification and drug
Stephen Penman	resident	Flurin Zinsli	problems in Leith etc

#### 1.2 Apologies

Charlotte Encombe	LCCC (secretary)	Irene Sweeney	LCCC
Pamela Grant	LCCC	Keith Hailes	Leith Business Association

### 2 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Approved without changes (proposed A Wilson, seconded H Tobermann)

### 3 Matters arising from previous month's minutes

#### 3.1 Communication (item 3.2 in February minutes) – Chair

Chair is trying to find a contract in which top-ups do not expire but only decrease as calls are made. **ACTION: CHAIR TO REPORT IN MARCH**

#### 3.2 Donation to Friends of Pilrig Park (item 3.4 in January minutes) – Treasurer

FoPP have now passed over an invoice so the donation can now be made

#### 3.3 Leith local plan (item 7 in February minutes) – all members

Members were reminded of the meeting with Irene Beautyman of Edinburgh Council on 27 February.

#### 3.4 Leith partnerships (item 10 in February minutes) – secretary

**ACTION: SECRETARY TO INVITE ANNA HERRIMAN (PARTNERSHIP AND INFORMATION MANAGER, CITY CENTRE AND LEITH) TO NEXT MEETING**

#### 3.5 Training, team-building and Manifesto?

8 of the 10 LCCC members gathered for a training and team-building day on 3 February, led by Trevor Davis, a former planning convener and Leith ward councillor, and now a professor of planning. A report on this meeting has received positive comment – see <http://leithcentralcc.co.uk/2014/02/16/leith-matters-to-us>. Professor Davies has written an interpretation of members' thoughts – see <http://leithccc.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/written-summary.pdf>. H Tobermann is spoke favourably of this interpretation but felt it need not be the final word – it could be worked up into a manifesto. J Siann said the training had been enlightening and consciousness-raising. It showed how LCCC could be more active in and around its community, and what could be achieved with a community council's limited resources.

### 4 Community Police Officer's Report

#### 4.1 Report

- There has been a rise in housebreakings in Edinburgh – this has also affected Leith. Police Scotland's is responding with an on-going operation using high-visibility patrols and a specific team to identify offenders. This has identified the 'vast majority of targets', most of whom are already on the way to being tried in court. The above-mentioned team is working with teams trying to recover stolen goods by investigating

items at pawnbrokers, on eBay, Gumtree etc. Police presence in Leith has been heightened thanks to the 'loan' of some officers from the former Strathclyde police region. **ACTION: PC DUFF TO ADVISE NEXT MEETING ACTUAL NUMBERS OF HOUSEBREAKINGS.**

- Since 13 January, community police shifts been aligned with response teams' working patterns, so that there are more patrols when they are most likely to be needed, e.g. when the pubs are busy..
- A violence-reduction unit is now working from Leith police stations. This scheme had been trialled in Strathclyde. This tactic is deploying more officers around Edinburgh as needed. The unit briefs local people (hence tacitly warning potential perpetrators). In Leith, these briefings take place in Kirkgate.
- There are police surgeries on Wednesdays, 12 noon to 2pm in McDonald Road library.
- Link Housing has a new supervised housing area in Bonnington Road, where young people can learn independent living while being aided by support workers living in neighbouring flat.
- The safer Leith Forum will take place on Tuesday 4 March 6:30 in McDonald Road library. Citizens will be able to vote on local policing priorities for the next 3 months.
- Public counter hours are currently reduced due to a temporary staff shortage – counters are closed in evenings. PC Duff acknowledged this was not ideal: police stations should be places of safety. **ACTION: PC DUFF TO ADVISE NEXT MEETING OF ANY IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNTER HOURS.**
- A body recently found in Victoria Park is not being treated as a suspicious event.

#### 4.2 Related matters

Yvonne Hale is studying towards a PhD around how the restructuring is affecting community policing. Her studies are based at the University of Dundee and the Scottish Institute of Police Research. She appealed for interviewees who were willing to speak about their opinions on how the formation of Police Scotland has affected local policing.

## 5 CCC Office Bearers' Reports

### 5.1 Secretary (delivered by vice-chair)

- H Tobermann suggested that it would be sensible to adopt Edinburgh Council's model standing orders. **ACTION: MINUTES SECRETARY TO CIRCULATE THESE, FOR DECISION IN MARCH**
- Greener Leith now have nominated Leah Lockhart as their representative on LCCC. This was formally approved nem com.

### 5.2 Treasurer

See Appendix 1 for current financial position.

Predicted future payments include payment to T Davies for training event (£100) and donation to FoPP (£200)

## 6 Leith Walk Repairs and Improvements

H Tobermann reminded the meeting of the paper adopted last month – see <http://leithcentralcc.co.uk/2014/01/30/leith-walk-repairs-lcccs-position>. The main thrust of this paper is to promote speedy rectification of Leith Walk, which has been deteriorating for over 2400 days – we are not content to wait another 720 days. Since the last meeting, HT has met with Cllr Hinds and other relevant councillors – see appendix 2 and <http://leithccc.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/tro1351-response-to-leith-central-community-council.pdf>

Hence LCCC aims to shorten the time repairs will take: some activities could be undertaken simultaneously instead of consecutively, and some impedimenta could be removed. For example, it appears that a design for the bottom of LW has existed for 9 months but has only become available now.

HT stated that the paper has received a positive reception and that Leith Walk councillors are in good positions to push for action – they recognise there is a problem so a cure can now be sought in earnest. HT asked LCCC for continuing support for this process. **DECISION: LCCC SUPPORTS HT'S APPROACH NEM CON**

He looked forward to the next LW repairs stakeholder meeting on 20 February. HT also noted that LCCC would send a deputation to the next Edinburgh Council transport committee meeting to further make the case for accelerated repairs. Overall, HT was cautiously optimistic because (he believes) there is a strong moral case for better, faster action – Leith houses around 10% of Edinburgh's population and so needs adequate pavements and roads.

## 7 Friends of Parks Report

- 7 benches have now been installed
- A recent clear-up took place in the area near the Gaelic School – some syringes were found. See Open Forum below. FoPP is meeting with Edinburgh Council officials on 19 February because clearance is now clearly an urgent matter
- Feith Decides granted £1000 towards FoPP's anti-litter/rubbish efforts

## 8 Planning sub-committee report

Edinburgh Council has published its 2013 planning performance framework. [ACTION: MINUTES SECRETARY TO ADD THIS TO WEBSITE.](#) This summarises how well planning service has performed. See <http://leithcentralcc.co.uk/2014/02/19/edinburgh-councils-performance-planning-framework>.

The PSC has released a list of 8 sites it is currently monitoring – see <http://leithcentralcc.co.uk/planning>. The PSC tends to concentrate on bigger sites. Some of the sites it monitors have not yet formally entered the planning system (e.g. the potential Lidl store on Easter Road, 100 Pilrig Street).

It was asked whether Shrub House had been sold? HT did not know but suggested that the Council and the agent could be asked. The deadline for bids had only just passed so the decision may not have been made.

## 9 Councillors' Report, MP/MSP reports

### 9.1 Cllr Gardner

- 26 of the 43 candidates at Feith Decides were awarded funds – see <http://tinyurl.com/ccnojcg>. 1035 people voted but there were 50 spoilt ballots
- Responses to the potential Lidl store on Easter Road have been moderately luke-warm to positive. Cllr Gardner suggested that any people who were against this development should make their opinions known.

### 9.2 Cllr Brock

- The Cleaner Leith Forum will meet on Tuesday 25 February at 6pm at McDonald Road library
- News from the recent Leith Partnership meeting
  - Childrens' Services in Leith is implementing various improvements.
  - There was a presentation on a survey of businesses by Leith Chamber of Commerce.
  - There was a presentation from the Green Space Trust about their feasibility study
  - of a potential green bridge over Leith Walk
  - A new GP service will soon start operating in Leith Community Treatment Centre.
- Cllr Brock will meeting with council officers, other cllrs and FoPP on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> about the Pilrig Park situation – see Open Forum below

### 9.3 M Chisholm MSP

- A private bill (i.e. a bill which will not call on public funds) calling for a statue for the author of the rules of golf will reach its final stage in Parliament on 18 February.
- There is to be a consultation on dangerous dogs and dog-fouling consultation. Dogs may be banned from Montgomery Street park.
- Extra housing in Leith – the issues are
  - Population increases will need extra GP practices
  - More nursery provision is currently needed – currently children are starting nursery aged 4 instead of at a suitable earlier age.
- Complaints about inappropriate taxi parking have been received. The MSP asked whether this was of wide concern.

### 9.4 Mark Lazarowicz MP

- The post office branch in the St James Centre may be moved to Princes Mall (Waverley Market), due to uncertainty about the future of the SJC. The MP suggested this would be convenient for Leith residents and that the PO should try to retain the SJC branch, find a new location closer to Leith and/or provide more facilities at the Elm Row branch. The PO is currently consulting on this potential move, so the MP suggested LCCC (and others) could submit views. More information can be reached via <http://tinyurl.com/qeugebj>
- 'superfast broadband' had been proposed for some but not all of Edinburgh: areas of the city centre and Leith Walk would be among the 'not-spots'. However, more budget has now become available so fewer areas may be omitted – the MP is trying to find more details. He noted that this concerned connections to street cabinets rather than connections into premises. H Tobermann suggested that better broadband

arrangements were highly desirable: the 60 tenants of Out of the Blue can currently only get a fast shared connection by renting a leased line, which is prohibitively expensive.

## 10 Open Forum

### 10.1 Drug detritus in Pilrig Park

Residents reported on FoPP's efforts to improve the park. There has been good progress since FoPP was formed but there are still dangers in wooded areas of the park from drug-users and other undesirables. FoPP has been trying to engage Edinburgh Council's environmental wardens' services – allegedly in vain. The residents suggested that the wardens' claims to have checked areas for safety prior to clean-up events were false. Their evidence was a box full of syringes and other drug-paraphernalia collected from a small area the day after wardens were supposed to have made the area safe. See photo at <http://tinyurl.com/p66jfd0>. The residents noted that this refuse is especially dangerous because of its proximity to the Gaelic School, and requested that Edinburgh Council take action immediately – a deep ('landmine') clearance.

Cllr Brock stated that resources would now be put towards a deep cleansing of afflicted areas.

The CPO stated that foot patrols would continue to check on drug-users and rough sleepers. He will report this issue to his superiors so that any necessary improvements to policing can be made.

It was suggested that making the affected areas more open/visible would discourage this abuse, and that school-children could help accelerate action by writing to the council.

### 10.2 Former tram sheds on Leith Walk

The chair has been approached indirectly by people who wish to create a transport museum in these sheds. Cllr Gardner has also been approached by people who wish to create farmers market at the same location. The chair suggested that implementing both together would be more viable. He has invited the potential museum-founders to speak at the March meeting.

## 11 AOCB

Nothing

## 12 Dates of future meetings

17 March, 28 April, 19 May (AGM), 16 June

## 13 Appendix 1 – current financial position

DATE	DESCRIPTION	Cheque No	Credit	Debit	Balance	Bank Balance
2013	Balance b/f					£1,221.80
09-Apr	Minutes B Ryan	351		£30.00		£1,191.80
20-May	Minutes B Ryan	352		£30.00		£1,161.80
15-Aug	Minutes B Ryan	353		£30.00		£1,131.80
14-Sep	Minutes (June) B Ryan	354		£30.00		£1,101.80
14-Sep	C Encombe- domain renewal	355		£20.94		£1,080.86
10-Sep	Edinburgh Council		£989.06			£2,069.92
21-Oct	LGBT	356		£18.68		£2,051.24
31-Oct	Minutes (Aug/Sept) B Ryan	357		£60.00		£1,991.24
27-Dec	Affiliate Mem Cockburn Assoc	358		£40.00		£1,951.24
27-Dec	Minutes (Oct/Nov) B Ryan plus domain link	359		£68.26		£1,882.98
28-Jan	Minutes (Dec) B Ryan	360		£50.00		£1,832.98
TOTALS			£989.06	£377.88		
	Balance b/f		£1,221.80			
	Income		£989.06			
	Total Income		£2,210.86			
	less expenditure		£377.88			
	BALANCE		£1,832.98			

**14 Appendix 2: response from Edinburgh Council to LCCC's submission on Leith Walk TRO**

Mr H Tobermann & Mr J Siann  
Leith Central Community Council

[harald.tobermann@gmail.com](mailto:harald.tobermann@gmail.com)

Date 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Your ref

Our ref TP/01/002/2/CS

Dear Mr Tobermann/Mr Siann,

TRO/13/51 – LEITH WALK (PILRIG STREET TO DUKE STREET)

Thank you for your correspondence dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014 regarding the above Traffic Regulation Order, in which you express broad support for the proposals on behalf of Leith Central Community Council.

As with all new schemes which are implemented within Edinburgh, the changes to Leith Walk as part of the Leith Programme will be monitored on completion and any issues which arise will be addressed.

A report on the representations which were received in response to the advertised Order will now be prepared for the Council's Transport and Environment Committee meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014. This will allow elected members to make a decision on how to proceed.

I hope that you find our response helpful. If you would like any further information on the Leith Programme, please contact Callum Smith on 0131 469 3592 or [c.smith@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:c.smith@edinburgh.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Buchanan".

Ian Buchanan  
Neighbourhood Manager, City Centre and Leith

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